

## **CLAIMS**

Kindly cancel claims 12, 13 and 16, without prejudice, and amend claims 14 and 15, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

**Claims 1-13 (cancelled).**

**Claim 14 (currently amended):** A reproduced signal equalizing method for optical information media in which reproduced signals obtained by irradiating laser light to an optical information medium are equalized so as to bring a waveform thereof close to a waveform having predetermined characteristics, the method comprising the steps of:

sampling reproduced signals in a predetermined cycle;

inputting the reproduced signals sampled in the predetermined cycle to a Viterbi decoder, wherein the reproduced signals are unequalized;

defining a target waveform as a waveform based on binarized data demodulated by the Viterbi decoder and a partial response waveform;

calculating an equalization coefficient for producing a smallest difference between the said target waveform and an equalized waveform by a [[the]] least square technique by using a matrix calculation; and

equalizing reproduced signals by using the calculated equalization coefficient.

**Claim 15 (currently amended):** A reproduced signal equalizing method according to claim 14, wherein 3000 or more sampled waveforms are used in the [[said]] matrix calculation.

**Claim 16 (cancelled).**

**Claim 17 (previously presented):** An optical information reproducing apparatus having a function for equalizing reproduced signals by using the reproduced signals equalizing method according to claim 14.

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